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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(January 27 - February 28, 1980)

March 1980

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

Summary of Commentary in Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa
(27 Jan 80 - 28 Feb 80)

Angola

Molding a Socialist Society

The Politburo of the Central Committee of the MPLA stated that the construction of a socialist society is the major strategic goal of the Angolan Revolution, and its fulfillment will require the active participation of every party member and all the Angolan people. It was stressed that national unity could only be achieved when all segments of the population, especially the workers and peasants, were made active participants in the conduct of the country's affairs. This reaching out for support from among the populace had to be done immediately. (Comment: The use of the term "strategic" in referring to the Revolution's major goal implies that tactical aberrations in policy are acceptable.) (3 Feb 80, p. 5)

Western-Inspired Attacks on Angola

Jose dos Santos, the President of Angola, told a mass meeting of the MPLA that South Africa was conducting a scorched earth policy in southern Angola, especially in the province of Cunene. Their tactics include bombing populated settlements, highways, railroads, and industrial areas. All of this is in support of the counterrevolutionary aims of UNITA, which also is the recipient of wide material support from the South African Government and the Imperialist West.

The President was especially critical of the two-faced and cynical approach of the West that combined giving economic aid to the Angolan Government and financial aid to anti-Angolan groups.

Sincere thanks to the USSR and Cuba were extended by the President for their continued and unflinching assistance to Angola. (6 Feb 80, p. 5)

South Africa, Beijing, and the CIA vs Angola

South African Army units equipped with helicopters have been assisting UNITA forces in bandit raids on Angola in the Namibian border region. The UNITA forces have also received training and arms from agents of both Beijing and the CIA. This is all part of a concerted effort to undermine any attempt to solve the Namibian question. (16 Feb 80, p. 5)

Ethiopia

Training Protocol

A protocol was signed in Addis Ababa on 18 Feb aimed at further expanding the training of highly skilled specialists from the ranks of Ethiopian citizens in Soviet secondary and higher educational establishments and scientific research institutions. Larger numbers of Ethiopians will be trained every year of this 5-year program in the professions of engineering, medicine, and agriculture. (19 Feb 80, p. 1)

Guinea-Bissau

Soviet Competition Entry

As a part of the preparations for the National Union of Workers (UNWG) annual meeting, more than 20 establishments or institutions are vying to outdo one another as a sign of their support of the UNWG. One of the aspirants for first place is the mixed Soviet-Guinean fishing association, "The Star of the Sea," which won this title in last year's competition. (Comment: In the Soviet Bloc, "Socialist Competitions" are commonplace and function as a means of either increasing production or citizen zeal. Often these competitions involve one widget manufacturer challenging another over who can make more widgets in celebration of some Communist anniversary. The above article is a rare instance of a foreign-based Soviet organization actively attempting to woo certain segments of a foreign populace.) (25 Feb 80, p. 4)

Lesotho

South African Arms Cache

A large cache of military equipment and ammunition manufactured in South Africa was discovered in northern Lesotho, a country entirely surrounded by the racist Republic of South Africa. (28 Feb 80, p. 4)

Indian Ocean

Zone of Peace Proposed

A Soviet commentator stated that the USSR supported, as it always has, the proposal to turn the Indian Ocean into a "Zone of Peace." The USSR supports this idea because the nations of the Indian Ocean favor it, and they represent 1/3 of the world's population. This wholehearted and sincere support by the Soviet Union is in sharp contrast to that given the proposal by the US. The US publically supports it, but takes every opportunity to undermine its acceptance and implementation by refusing to agree to concrete steps that would make this concept a reality. To agree to this concept would mean that the US would have to relinquish its base at Diego Garcia and halt its imperialist adventures in this area.

Namibia

Theft of Namibia's Resources

The South African Government has been blatantly robbing Namibia of its natural resources. According to a Johannesburg newspaper, the Sunday Times, 305 licenses were issued in 1979 to a number of firms from South Africa, Great Britain, and the US for geological surveys. Some of these firms have found valuable deposits of minerals and have already begun building mines and ore processing plants. (10 Feb 80, p. 5)

Rhodesia

UN Resolution on Violations of London Accords

The Soviet representative, M. A. Kharlamov, supported a resolution being discussed in the UN Security Council that was aimed at reminding Great Britain about its obligations to decolonize Rhodesia in order for free and democratic elections to take place. This resolution also made mention of the numerous violations of the London Accords that Great Britain had allowed, including the measures taken against freedom fighters such as the Patriotic Front and the continued participation of racist South Africa in the internal affairs of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia. (4 Feb 80, p. 5)

Public Concern in the USSR Over Rhodesia

The Soviet Committee for Solidarity with the Countries of Africa and Asia stated that the Soviet public is seriously concerned about the situation in Rhodesia, which has become a threat to peace and safety in this region of the world and is a serious obstacle to the holding of free and just elections. The Committee, in the name of the Soviet public, harshly judges the activities of the British Government and the British colonial administration in Rhodesia for their policies that deny people of that country the option of freely determining their future. (21 Feb 80, p. 4)

Colonizers Unmasked

The Ministers Council of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) meeting in Addis Ababa demanded that Great Britain take steps to insure just and free elections in Zimbabwe. They also voted to give \$9 million to the Patriotic Front for its election campaign, and insisted that provisions be made for a group of observers from the OAU for these elections. (15 Feb 80, p. 5)

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone-USSR Friendship Society

A ceremony was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, commemorating the opening of a library at the Sierra Leone-USSR Friendship Society. The library was the gift of the Soviet branch of that organization. This was an important event that will contribute to furthering the ties between the people of these two nations. (9 Feb 80, p. 1)

Soviet Assistance and Cooperation with Sierra Leone

Soviet assistance is being provided to the fishing industry of Sierra Leone. Besides organizing a 10-year plan for this industry, the Soviet Union has also set up a school providing nautical skills. Soviet vessels are also training dozens of Sierra Leone nationals to be sailors and mechanics. And in another field, Soviet physicians have been serving in a hospital in the provincial city of Mazburaka for 30 years. (20 Feb 80, p. 4)